



EMC News

July 3, 2002

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ENERGY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Kenny Christianson

The Energy Committee met on June 24 and July 1. The committee drafted a resolution recommending an emissions reduction target for County operations. The resolution is included in the agenda packet and will be considered at the EMC meeting on July 10.

ANSWERS TO EMC QUESTIONS ON WINDPOWER

Submitted by Ron Kamen, Community Energy

It is possible to locate cell transmitters on wind turbine towers. However, they would have to be significantly lower than 100' because the spinning blades would cut off the cell signals. As far as we know, no one has installed cell transmitters on wind turbines yet. However, they have been successfully installed on water towers, buildings, and power transmission towers.

When the wind pushes a 1.5 MW turbine to its maximum 20 RPM's, the tip speed is approximately 164 miles per hour. You can find more technical information about the 1.5 MW turbines at:
http://www.gepower.com/wind/en_us/ge_wind_energy/products/15/15specs.html.

You can find out more about the impact on birds at the American Wind Energy Association site:
<http://www.awea.org/pubs/factsheets/WEandBirds.pdf>. You can also get detailed information from Paul Kerlinger and Dick Curry: 609-884-2842, <http://www.currykerlinger.com/about.htm>. Dick Curry headed up the Redwood National Park Task Force for the National Park Service, and Paul Kerlinger was director of the Cape May Bird Observatory for the New Jersey Audubon Society.

The Final 2002 New York State Energy Plan is available at NYSERDA's website at <http://www.nyserra.org/sep.html>. I ordered a copy for the library and will pass it around when it arrives. -- *Submitted by Heather McDaniel*

Dear EMC members,

My recent professional and personal life schedules have prevented me from being a participating member of the EMC this year, and it's time to free my position for someone who can be more active. It has been an enriching experience for me to serve on the EMC. I admire the EMC members and staff I worked with who were all committed, in their sometimes wacky and idiosyncratic ways, to preserving and enhancing the quality of our lives. I appreciate the many people over the past years who facilitated the small contributions I made to the EMC, and helped me think more deeply about the environment. These include Bob Beck, Ron Beloin, Susan Brock, Katie Borgella, Ed Cope, Barbara Ebert, Herb Engman, Dooley Kiefer, Lynn Leopold, Gay Nicholson, Nancy Ostman, Bob Roe, Mikel Shakarjian, Larry Sharpsteen, David Weinstein, Robert Wesley and Roger Yonkin. All of whom I've seen generate thoughtful or at least interesting perspectives on environmental issues! I applaud the energy and commitment of the newer EMC members I don't know as well. The Freeville Board of Trustees was always and continues to be an amazing group of busy citizens: Good critical minds and a serious interest in environmental matters beyond their small village. They welcomed me, making county and watershed environmental issues their issues. My reward for when I took the time to attend their board meetings was watching thoughtful, grass roots democracy in action. *Thank you all – Bruce Johnson*

MUNICIPAL REPORTS

Village of Cayuga Heights

Submitted by Jeff Cox

On June 17th, I reported to the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cayuga Heights on EMC issues that are likely to impact the Village. This included: Pesticide Neighbor Notification Law, the Cities for Climate Protection Program, The Vital Communities Principles (the Village supports this).

Over —→

the emergency communication system (Village has a cell tower ordinance), and on electricity generated by wind (to be offered by NYSEG in August). The Mayor indicated (in a separate conversation) that the aquifer study has a lower priority for the Village.

Town of Newfield

Submitted by Donna Jean Darling

The newly formed Newfield Business Association is moving toward incorporation as a nonprofit organization.

Plans are underway for the annual celebration of Newfield Night Out on Tuesday, August 6, in the center of town.

The Town of Newfield continues to struggle with drilling for a satisfactory second water source for the creation of a second water district and backup resources for emergency needs. Water Committee Chair, Mary Beth Holub reports that a third drilling has now been authorized and application has been made for an extension on the tax-free loan for the work.

Town of Ithaca

Submitted by Don Weir

Current Environmental Issues: the lack of the Cornell Lake Source Cooling (LSC) raw data to the Town's contractor, the New Zoning proposal, and the Stream Buffer Ordinance.

Future Issues: the Scenic View surveys, the classification of Cayuga Lake's south end as an area of EPA concern, the Coy Glen Conservation Zone, the parking lots being covered with non-permeable surfaces vs. new lots being constructed with permeable surfaces, farmland protection, and Six Mile Creek Riparian Buffer partnership.

How can the EMC assist? Assure that Cornell make available the raw data from LSC to the Town's contractor, and derive comments on the Town's new zoning proposal.

Look for Municipal Reports in the September EMC News from the Towns of Caroline, Danby, and Dryden.

See you at the next meeting **Wednesday, July 10th**
meeting location change – Old Jail Conference Room (125 E. court Street) – feel free to park in the county lots on either side of the building.

PROPOSED ADDITION TO TOMPKINS COUNTY CHARTER 2002

Section 10.03

County Environmental Management Council

There shall be an Environmental Management Council (EMC) that will receive administrative assistance through the Planning Department. The EMC is charged with carrying out the following tasks:

(a) The Council shall advise the County Board of Representatives, through the appropriate committee of the Board, on matters affecting the preservation, development, and use of the natural features and conditions of the county insofar as they have a bearing on environmental quality. The Council shall also consider other matters referred to the Council by the County Board of Representatives or Commissioner of Planning.

(b) The Council shall develop and conduct programs of public information in the county which shall be designed to foster increased understanding of the nature of environmental problems and issues and their solutions. The Council shall conduct studies, surveys, and inventories, including but not limited to surveys and studies for identification of those open spaces, natural areas, wetlands, and other natural and scenic features which are of a local, County or regional significance and for which records shall be maintained.

(c) The Council shall recommend ways to improve the coordination and effectiveness of public and private projects and other activities within the county as they affect the natural environment. The EMC should maintain liaison with regional and state environmental planning entities.

(d) The Council shall prepare and submit an annual report of its activities to the Board of Representatives. The Council shall submit minutes and other pertinent materials to the BOR Planning Committee and the Commissioner of Planning, and correspond as appropriate with officials at the local, state and national levels.

(e) When authorized by the County Board of Representatives, the Council may accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest, or otherwise, property both real and personal in the name of the county, as may be necessary to conserve and otherwise properly utilize open spaces and other land and water resources within the boundaries of the county.